

Summer Camps Along Virginia Shore of the Potomac



LADIES' DAY AT RACCAR CAMP.

ALONG the Virginia shore of the Potomac river above Aqueduct bridge up to the quarry is a series of tented camps and several houseboats in the river, forming a summer colony.

What is the impulse which impels folk to seek this life without the comforts and luxuries of their city homes? Who are they that seek the pleasures spread before them in this manner of life?

Some of those who live there say it is the freedom from the cares required to keep the complexities of home life in order; others, that it is proximity to the broad river, which gives bathing and boating; some, that it is the coolness of the nights, when blankets and sweaters become a necessity; others, the companionship at night about the camp fire, the good health, which brings keen appetite, the contemplative—perhaps sentimental—time spent in the moonlight, so much more beautiful in the open country.

There may be a thousand and one sources of pleasure in the camps, but underlying them all is that fundamental love of the earth whence we sprang, and where we may live like our fellow-animals, although not reverting to type and fortunately not losing our happier development. It is like the impulse which in the spring sends the migratory birds to the great north.

These camps are filled for the most part by young men engaged in business in the city, and the morning hours see canoes, motor and power boats shooting down and across the river, taking campers on their way to their daily occupations. But not all the campers are young in years, and not all are men. Some of the men are young only in spirit, and some of the campers belong to the other sex, and not of the severe suffragette type, either.

A few eras or so ago, when the Potomac cut its way to the ocean, the southerly bank was left very steep and unsightly, but time has covered it with beautiful trees, and moss forms a soft cushion over the rocks. At the foot of the bank, south of the quarry, between the bank and the river, is a stretch of ground nearly a mile long and varying from fifty to a hundred and fifty feet in width, running at a nearly uniform height of ten feet above the water level. It is shaded by beautiful trees, and among them the camps, protected by the high bank behind them, are pitched for the season.

"Camp Ease" is the first one this side of the quarry. Four canvas sleeping tents and an open dining tent shelter this family party of father, mother, wife, husband and daughter and their friends. They celebrated their independence by taking possession of this delightful spot on the Fourth of July, and they intend to stay until cold weather drives them out, although this may not mean so very much; for already the night breezes down the river are cool.

The high bank shelters them from the worst winds, a nearby spring furnishes pure, cold water, the woods provide the wild flowers which decorate the dinner table and the waters of the river furnish, after due patience on the part of the anglers, fish for the noontime meal. Friendly birds visit them, and so far this season, the high-voiced mosquito has not put in his appearance.

"To-Quan Camp" borders upon "Ease" literally and in the punning sense which suggests itself. Here seven young men settled last April, to remain the whole season. They find it very comfortable to paddle from the Maryland side in the afternoon and after getting out of business clothes to take a plunge into the river before sitting down to the dinner which "Shorty," cook, purveyor and guardian of the camp, provides in liberal variety and quantity. A launch and seven canoes constitute the camp navy and are required to carry the campers and their many visitors. The tents have board floors and comfortable beds. Good books, music, plenty of woolen and rubber blankets and "Shorty," with his paraphernalia, make a camp equipment which is very complete.

Three young men have occupied "Camp Roost" since the last of April, and they expect to remain there until the snow flies. Fortunately, the ground on which their tent stands is quite high, so that when the floods came last May and washed over many of the other camp sites this was not reached. "It is always dangerous to invite guests here," said a visitor to this camp. "It is my first visit, and I have already notified my host that I intend to stay as long as I can, and that this first visit is most emphatically not my last." He evidently had the first symptoms of the impulse to return from artificial to real life.

The next was a ladies' camp—"Rest a While"—made up of four tents, a chaperon and some people who were amusements they read a little," said the obliging camp historian, "swim a little,

row a little, eat, sleep and rest a great deal."

On a delightful site, the highest point in this section, is "Camp U and Us." A party of young men founded this camp four years ago and keep it open from May to October. Among the entertainments they have given, with the assistance of their mothers, this year was a Saturday afternoon bridge party to twenty-four girls. A trip over in a launch, a picnic supper with iced watermelons, a ride on the river in the moonlight made up the afternoon's pleasure.

"Sun Kamp" is a home camp made of agreeable families who occupy eight tents and just live out of doors. Mr. Burbank, its founder, was a pioneer in camping in this section, and his daughter, aged nine months, is the youngest camper along the river. If plenty of fresh air to live in and sleep in makes a baby healthy there is no chance that this young woman will ever reach the stage of elegant invalidism.

"Krazy Kamp" is a chartered club, established in 1911. Its six sleeping tents and dining tent are presided over by a chef, who is kept busy looking after the needs of the twenty-five members, all of whom come into the city daily. This is one of the oldest camps on the river and has the distinction of being the first to adopt the "krazy" way of spelling "Kamp."

"Kamp Komfort" a small party of young men are spending the summer. The tents, fitted up with all the camp accessories, a good chef, a steam launch and canoes, make a comfortable summer home as one could desire. "Raccar Club," with its large tents, comes next. This is an organized club limited to twenty members, with a waiting list of fifteen. A table thirty-

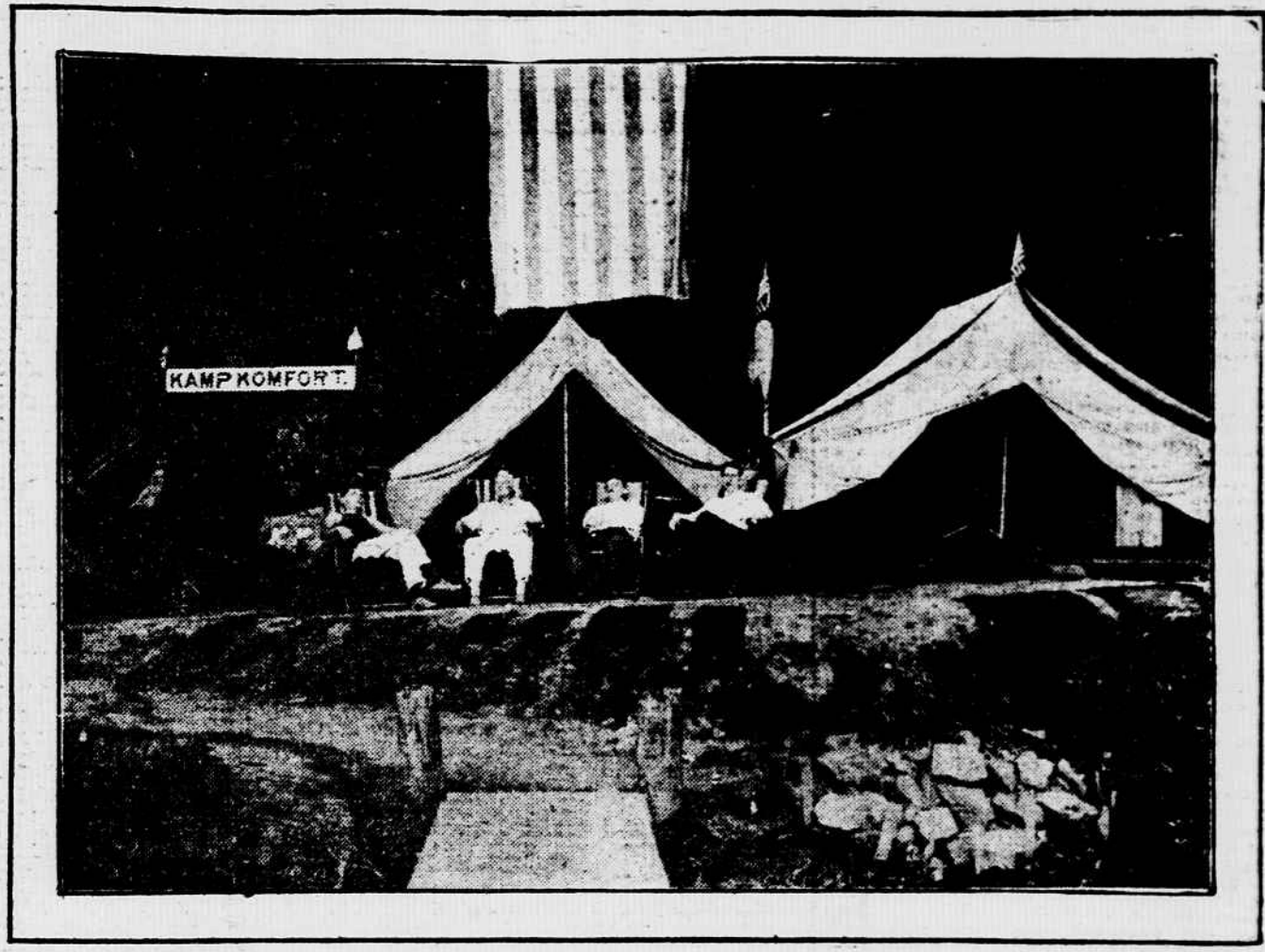
two feet long, sheltered under a great open fly, is placed close to the river, and thence the diners look at the broad river and beautiful Maryland bank and catch glimpses of Georgetown University and the Naval Observatory. Monthly stag parties are held, and two evenings each summer month ladies' nights are heralded by the arrival in camp of ice cream, cakes, watermelons and peaches. Saturday nights nearly all members are on hand. Sundays being ladies' days, the attendance is exactly doubled. A chef and a waiter, under Commodore Birch, provide a wonderful menu. The navy consists of twenty canoes and two motor boats.

Just below these clubs lie several houseboats. Houseboats are as different in construction and finish as boats are. The great distinction is between those which have their own motive power and may cruise at slow speed from point to point, and those which are constructed without power and remain at the place where they are anchored until the anchors are raised and they are towed to some other destination. They are all alike in these respects: they are a house built on a substantial hull, and the people who live in them have good times.

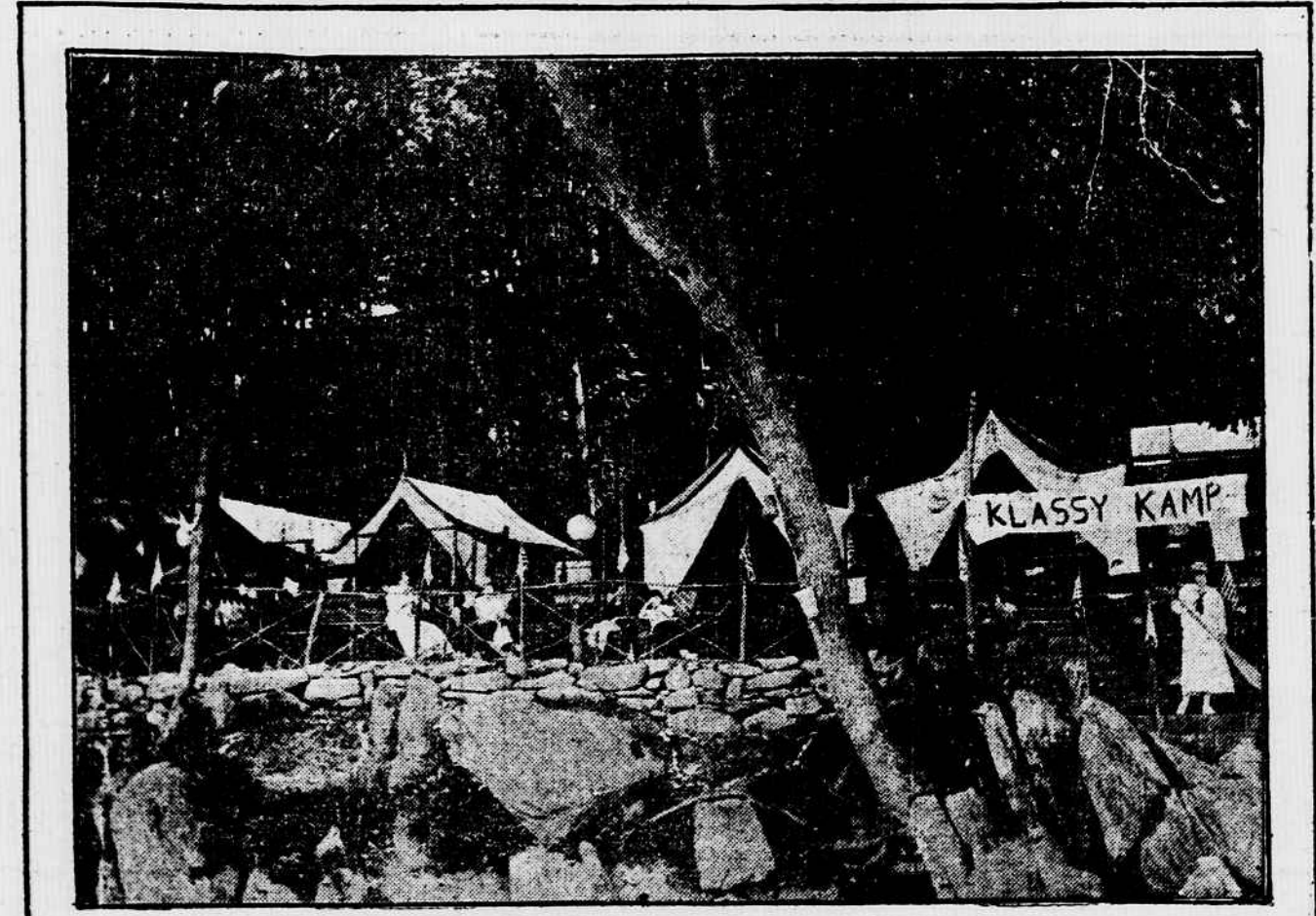
The owners of the first of the several of these crafts anchored off this shore were their own naval designers and then their own naval constructors. They designed and built a boat about thirty-two feet long and sixteen feet wide, square across bow and stern, with a thirty-inch freeboard. In the center of the boat and surrounded by a two-foot deck is the house, which springs from the bottom of the boat about seven feet. This space, about twenty-eight by twelve feet, is divided into a little kitchen and a big main cabin or living room. The house is lighted by plenty

The Series of Tents and Houseboats Along the Shaded Shore, Where City Comforts and Luxuries Are Given Up for the Freedom of the Woods and the River—The Thousand and One Sources of Pleasure for the Camper—Canoes and Motor Boats Do Their Share Toward Making Life Worth Living—South Bank of the River a Beautiful Place to Spend the Heated Spell.

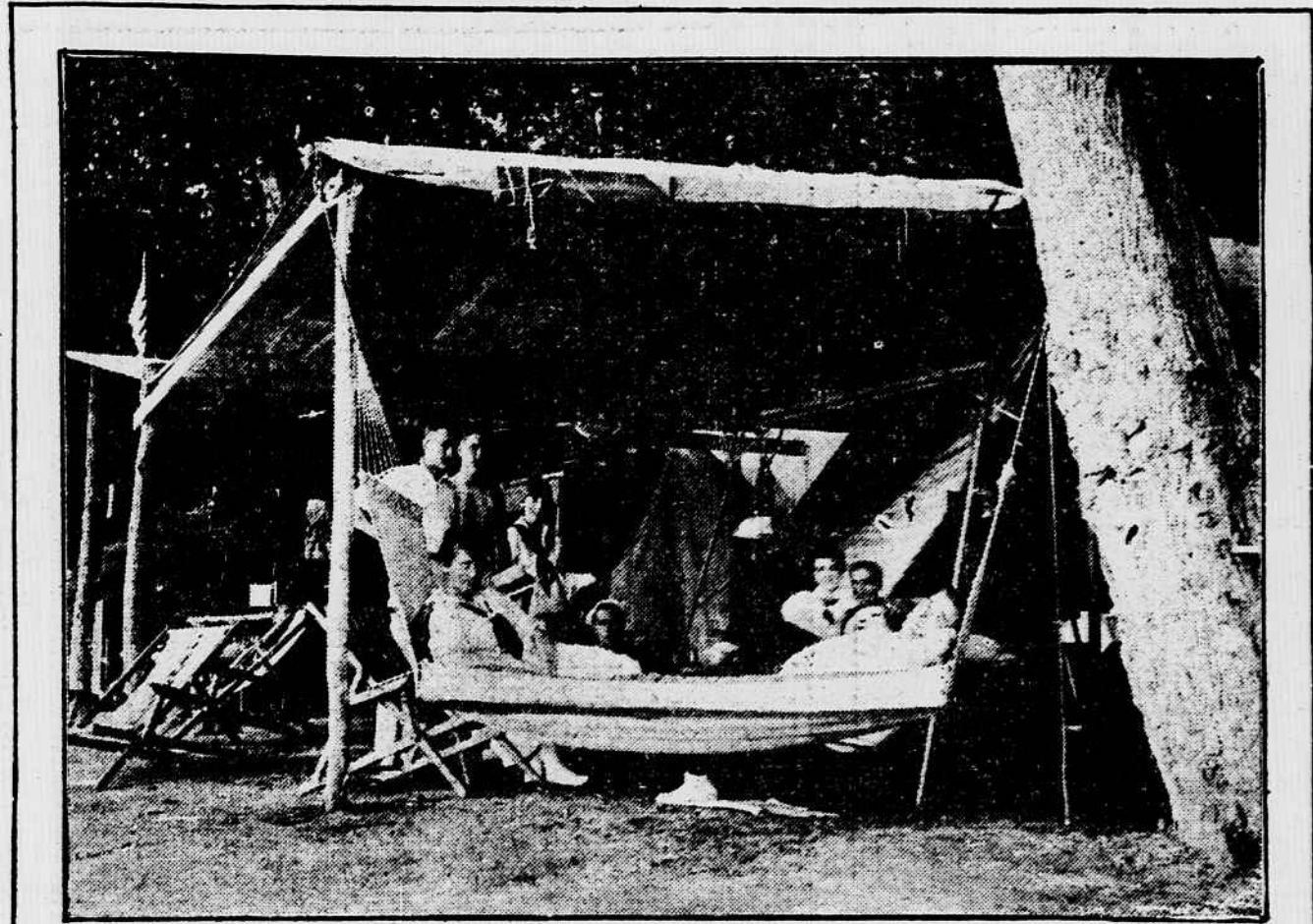
Most of the Camps Are Fully Equipped With Sleeping Tents, Cook Tents and Dining Tents—The Value of a Good Cook, Who Can Also Serve as Guardian—Houseboats Anchored Off Shore Furnish Their Occupants All the Breezes That Stir—The Largest of the Colonies—A Summer Evening in Camp, With Music, Games, Camp-fire Stories and the Moonlight.



A QUIET DAY AT KAMP KOMFORT.



A VIEW OF KLASSY KAMP.



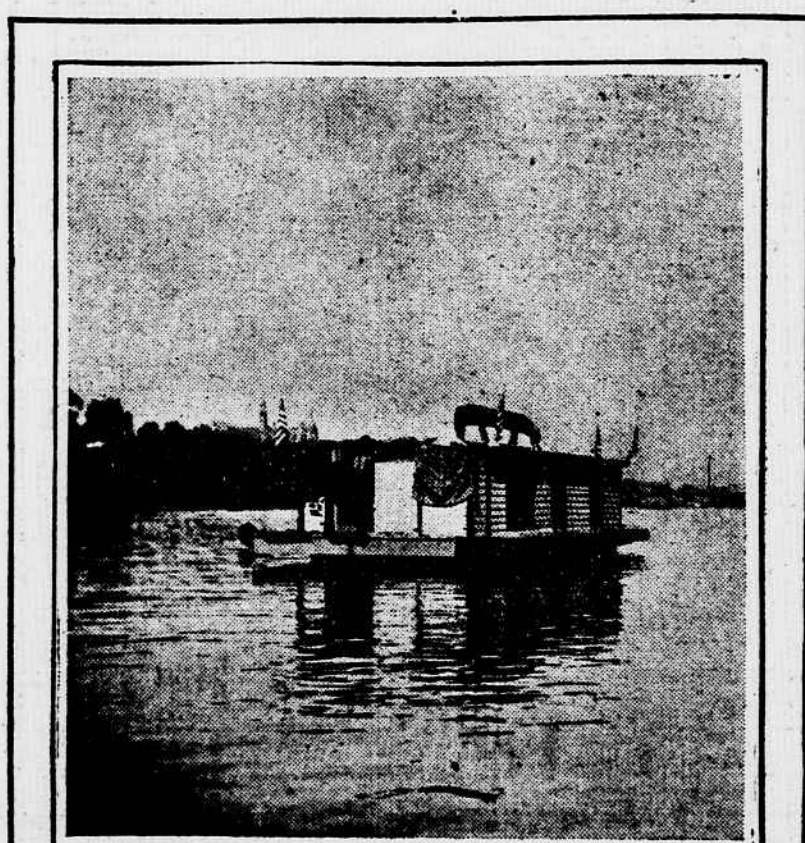
BIG SIX CAMP OF THE ANALOSTAN CLUB.



CAMP EASE, THE MOST NORTHERLY OF THE CAMPS.

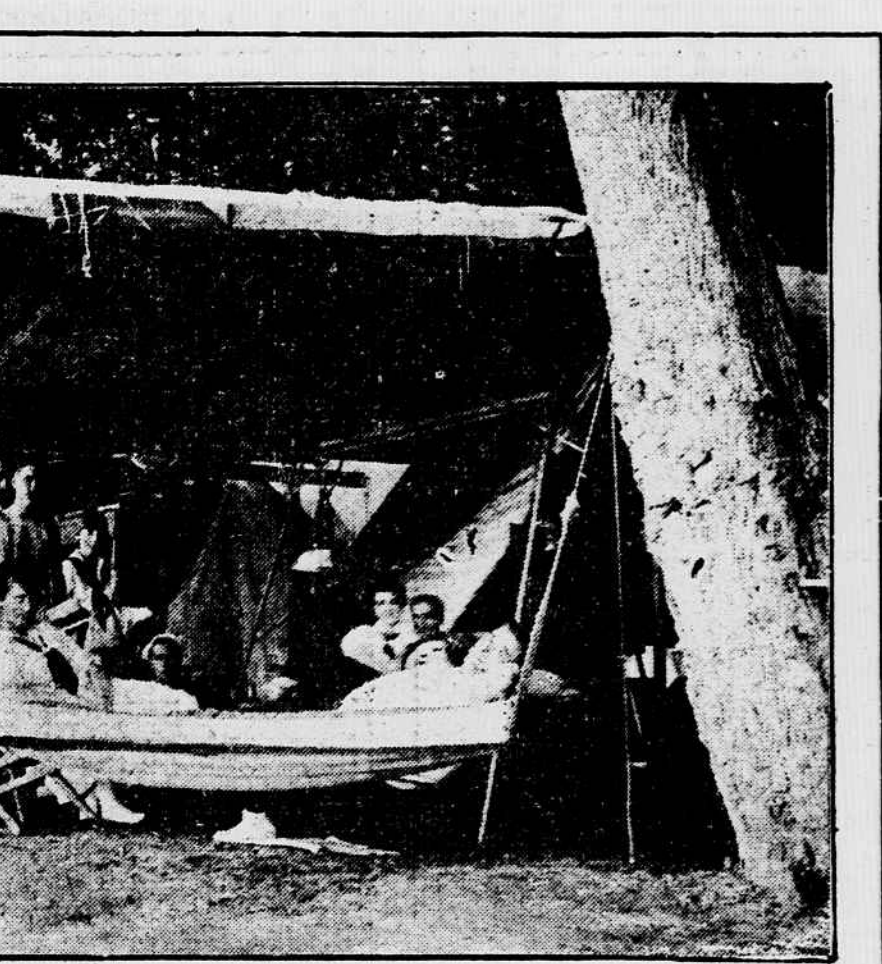


VISITORS AT CAMP ROOST.



HOUSEBOAT ANCHORED OFF VIRGINIA SHORE.

of windows, and is fitted up with bunks, camp chairs, tables and rugs, and presents all the comforts of a little bungalow. It is almost as steady as a house on shore, except that the swell of the river and of tents on shore which leak a little, seek refuge in the cozy cabin or living room of this snug craft.



BIG SIX CAMP OF THE ANALOSTAN CLUB.

modate family groups, and comfortable equipment and good cooks make living here easy. The men go to business and the women and girls take up light summer occupations. This is one of the largest camps on the river, and Sundays and Saturday afternoons is filled not only with members, but visitors. Some fine musicians in this camp help to make evenings pleasant, and occasional dances add to the festivities.

Nearly all the camps have musical instruments. Many of the campers play well, all sing—some with good voices and some with volume only—but they help to swell a chorus. Week-end parties, intercamp visits, races and other sports make the camp time go pleasantly. The hardships and petty annoyances are slight compared with the pleasures of the outdoor life and the freedom from home worries.

Almost every Saturday afternoon a regatta of some sort is held down the river, and in some of the events the campers take part. The events always cause a desertion of the camps, for all go to see the fun. There gather around the finishing point canoes of all sorts and styles, from the racer driven by a two-bladed paddle to the war canoe propelled by eight men; the canoes driven by motors and those propelled by sails. In some of these are bespectacled fathers with several children, the speed boys in abbreviated bathing suits, the youth who paddles with a girl, always distracting, lounging on the cushions. The inevitable camera man is opening fire or maneuvering for a position whence to snap anybody and everybody. Friends are greeting friends on all sides. The varied colors of the craft, the flashing paddles in the sunlight, the bright parasols of the girls, the kaleidoscopic change of light and color make a magic picture.

But with the sinking of the sun the boats scatter. The unfortunate turn to the city, but the select paddle to camp or houseboat along the darkening shore. Lights twinkle from camp to camp. The outside fires begin to burn brightly, forms move about in the light and sink away in the shadows. The evening in camp by the water, in the woods, under the moonlight, has begun.

A Famous Mississippi Race.

Men familiar with the history of the Mississippi steamboat traffic are generally agreed that the greatest race ever run on that river was that between the Natchez, commanded by Capt. T. F. Leathers, and the Robert E. Lee, under Capt. John W. Cannon. The Natchez was a Cincinnati boat, while the Robert E. Lee was built at New Albany, Ind.

For a long time rivalry existed between these two boats. When the Natchez broke all existing records by accomplishing the 1,775 miles between New Orleans and St. Louis in 3 days 21 hours and 58 minutes, the captain of the Robert E. Lee resolved to outdo his rival. He engaged the steamer Frak Paragoud and several fuel boats, arranging that they should meet him at various points up the river with wood and coal. Then he had his boat cleared of all her upper works which were likely to catch the wind and so hamper her progress.

Thursday, June 29, 1870, at 4:45 p.m., the Robert E. Lee steamed out of New Orleans. The Natchez followed five minutes later. The race had begun. All interest in all the river towns. Large crowds were gathered at Natchez, Vicksburg, Helena and other towns.

Between Cairo and St. Louis the Natchez lost, it was afterward claimed, by a fog and broken machinery. The Robert E. Lee, however, was not defeated. She was ahead of the Natchez three minutes ahead of the record established by her competitor. Fifty thousand dollars were offered for the top, on the levee and on the decks of other steamers, welcomed the winner as she steamed into port. Capt. Cannon was the hero of the hour, and a big banquet was given in his honor by the people of St. Louis.

FRENCH REALIZED VALUE OF ARTILLERY.

SUCCESS in this war hinges, of course, on many factors, but the factor of artillery ammunition appears to be of a very high degree of importance, if it really is not the factor of greatest importance. Each of the allies is straining every endeavor and every natural resource to increase the output of shell, to feed the hungry guns, to replace the guns worn out by firing, and to actually increase the number of cannon that fire powder and shell and powder and shrapnel by the thousands of tons and which promise to fire these things at an increasing rate until the war ends.

The world has become familiar with the call of the allies for shell and yet more shell. Without doubt the capacity of Germany is being worked to the limit in the production of cannon and cannon ammunition, but from Germany is heard no call for such war essentials. A call of that kind would not be permitted to fall upon the ears of the outside world. It would be construed as revealing military information and might give aid and comfort to the enemy.

In the years just preceding the war the French and Germans were known to be better equipped with cannon and

friend with a sister or some one willers to be a sister to try the experiences of camp life for a few days. In this particular camp a large party of girls with some mothers were guests for several days. A mighty sycamore, which stood before the camp, fell one night with a crash, smashing some seats and causing great excitement.

"Klassy Kamp" with its eight tents, its cook and dining tents, on quite high ground, is the one lying farthest down the Potomac. It is arranged to accom-

cannon charges than any other peoples. They had sensed the dominating part which artillery was to play in the next war. They piled up ammunition and enlarged their capacity for producing it. They provided it with the most modern rifles and shell and shrapnel to cannon that made the artillery of the war establishments of Russia, Great Britain and the United States appear feeble.

And yet in spite of this they vastly underestimated the ammunition that would be consumed. The French commission of the budget in its supplementary credits for the army and navy recently asked the sum of \$30,000,000 for cannon ammunition. The French report, which gives one a realistic conception of the demand of France, the best armed and prepared of the allies, for cannon ammunition: "The consumption of ammunition has exceeded all the estimates made, and in the last months of 1914 it was necessary not only to use all the resources at home, but to have recourse to foreign countries for very large quantities of material ready-made, machinery and raw material. By reason of the uncertainty at that time as to the quantities that it might be possible to obtain at short notice, and the prices that might have to be paid, it was not thought prudent

credits by extraordinary decrees, which might have been avoided by the competition in foreign markets among the powers who wished to buy as much as they could. The first five months of the war accounted to well over \$105,000,000. This was supplementary to the large sums appropriated for artillery before the beginning of hostilities, and as shown the figures apply only to the first five months of the war. The expenditure of money for ammunition, cannon and the raw materials of ammunition has steadily increased since the quoted figures became public through the report of the commission of the budget.